

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to this amendment, claims 1-20 were pending. In this amendment, claims 3 and 4 are amended. In order to expedite issuance of allowed subject matter, claims 1-2 are canceled without prejudice and without disclaimer. No claims are added. Thus, after entry of this amendment, claims 3-20 will be pending.

Allowed subject matter

Applicants note with appreciation the indicated allowability of claims 5-20.

Claims Rewritten in Independent Form and Allowable

Applicants also thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claim 4, if properly rewritten in independent form. Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form, and is thus believed to be allowable. Claim 3 depends from claim 4, and thus derives patentability at least therefrom.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

/David B. Raczkowski/

David B. Raczkowski
Reg. No. 52,145

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 415-576-0200
Fax: 415-576-0300
DBR:lrj
61109644v1